

10

In a packet communications network system, a border gateway protocol is employed to route an information packet from a source in a first autonomous system via a first label switched path to a destination in a second autonomous system via first and second border routers at an interface between the first and second autonomous systems. A label stack attached to the packet identifies both a forwarding interface for the packet and a forwarding behaviour at that interface. This provides a mapping from the first label switched path on to a second label switched path to the destination in the second autonomous system. Preferably, the destination router in the second autonomous system returns to the source router in the first autonomous system a two-label stack identifying first and second paths across the first and second autonomous systems respectively.